

City Council & City Manager



"I love working for the City of Wichita because I get the opportunity to learn something new everyday about the many different ways our organization dedicates itself to make the City of Wichita the best that it can be."

- Kelli Glassman
Management Intern







The mission of the City Council is to provide policy direction for developing and sustaining the health, safety and well being of the community. The mission of the City Manager's office is to oversee the daily activities of local government and maintain a willingness to listen and respond to citizens and the City Council.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The City Council completed its first year with a new Mayor and two new Council Members having been elected in April 2003.
- George Kolb has accepted the position of City Manager and will report to duty on July 26, 2004. Mr. Kolb comes to Wichita from Augusta/Richmond County, Georgia.
- The City Council has continued its efforts to sustain lower airfares for the community, through extension of its partnership with AirTran. Council action in recent years has also been instrumental in sustaining lower electric rates for Wichita citizens.
- The City Council also served as host for several Sister City Delegations during 2003, a significant achievement given the difficult economic climate locally and worldwide during 2003.
- Efforts are on-going to attract new business and win approval of STAR bond financing to further spur economic development in the community.
- The Women's International Bowling Congress is expected to add \$25 million to the local economy, and the Third Annual Wichita Aviation Festival will also be a successful boost to the City's image and fortunes.
- The City Manager's Office supervised the outsourcing of its legislative lobbyist efforts to support the City's interest on 17 important issues, with 6 of them identified as top priority for the City Council.

DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Submittal and adoption of the annual budget.
2. Fill key vacant department positions.
3. Implement new security plan for all City facilities.
4. Support local community partnership efforts.
5. Continue to support economic development efforts.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Dept. Objective	Program Measure Description	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Actual	2004 Projected	2005 Projected
2	City Manager's Office Staffing Level	NA	6	5	5	5
4	Assist, listen to and inform citizens	NA	250	250	250	250
4	Number of meetings supported by CMO	NA	30	30	30	30
4	Number of newsletters issued annually	NA	22	25	24	24
4	Process citizen requests in a timely manner	NA	138	150	160	160



OVERVIEW

The General Fund sustains the operations of the City Council and City Manager's Office, with personal services comprising in excess of 80% of the combined budgets. Funding continues for the leadership positions Council members hold with the National League of Cities and other important governmental associations.

The **City Council** also appoints members to the various boards, task forces and commissions that are organized as a

Council action has been a big part of Wichita's lower electric rates and airfares in recent years.

forum for citizens to have a voice as well as share ideas in the activities of the

City. The City Council consists of six Council Members elected by District, and a Mayor elected at-large.

Important achievements of the City Council have been to sustain lower electric rates for Wichita's ratepayers. Citizens can also fly into and out of Wichita inexpensively from selected locations, due to the on-going Fair Fares program. AirTran serves directly and indirectly, many eastbound destination cities, while Allegiant Air serves much of the western part of the country. Council members have also worked and lobbied diligently for approval of sales tax and revenue (STAR) bond financing as well as a WaterWalk business and residential area to capitalize on the City's Arkansas River asset.

The City Council meets on Tuesdays to establish policies, levy taxes, enact legislation, and conduct other business on behalf of Wichita's citizens. Council meetings are accessible through a variety of mediums; citizens can either attend the meetings in person, watch live or replayed meetings on Cable Channel 7, or access the minutes of meetings via the City's internet website.

Besides holding memberships in some of the local, regional and national associations existing for the interests of local government, members of the Council represent the City internationally as well. Wichita is an active participant in the Sister Cities International program. Goals of the program include fostering community ties through exhibits, tours, and exchanges; providing opportunities for cultural activities and exchanges, hosting visitors from Wichita's Sister Cities; and promoting student exchange programs for students from Wichita's Sister Cities.

Wichita has Sister City relationships with Tlalneapantla and Cancun, Mexico; Orleans, France; and Kaifeng, China. Council Members hope to establish more such relationships in the near future.

The **City Manager's Office** has the primary responsibility of maintaining a willingness to listen to and react to citizens and the Council, and is also tasked with running the day-to-day

business of local government. Frequent and numerous contacts are processed and handled daily by the City Manager's office. The office is accessible through many different methods, including telephone, faxes, e-mails, or in-person visits to City Hall or one of the four Neighborhood City Halls. On a given day, the City Manager's office will receive nearly 350 individual communications through these various channels.

The City Manager is tasked with the responsibilities of submitting the annual budget and communicating with the City Council on important matters affecting the City, in addition to those roles described above. The City Manager continually analyzes the varied and increasing needs of the community and attempts to meet these needs with sustainable service levels.

Annually, the City Manager sets and prioritizes community issues in concert with the Council, and directs the Finance Department in the development of a budget that is submitted to Council for review and adoption. The annual budget is a tool that is utilized for the purpose of allocating funding for new and existing programs and services, and eliminates ineffective programs to maximize delivery of local government products and services to meet the changing needs of the community.



The Mayor recognizes Student Ambassadors to Cancun, Mexico – one of the facets of the Sister Cities Program.

The City Manager's office complements the Mayor and City Council policy and priority-setting with focused research and special projects. A few recent projects involving the staff include:

- Facilitating the on-going activities of the IDEA Center
- Representing the City on the Fireworks Task Force.
- Supporting Wichita's Promise Youth Council, and promoting youth involvement and awareness in the community.



City Council/City Manager Budget Summary

	2003 Actual	2004 Adopted	2004 Revised	2005 Adopted	2006 Approved
Personal Services	816,062	859,530	874,570	995,490	1,013,230
Contractuals	121,670	143,340	142,450	141,950	141,950
Commodities	18,062	25,050	25,050	25,050	25,050
Other	0	7,750	7,750	7,750	7,750
Total Local Expenditures	955,794	1,035,670	1,049,820	1,170,240	1,187,980
City Council	500,183	569,590	556,330	600,860	611,790
City Manager's Office	455,611	466,080	493,490	569,380	576,190
General Fund	955,794	1,035,670	1,049,820	1,170,240	1,187,980
Total full-time positions	15	15	15	15	15
Total part-time positions	0	0	0	0	0
Total FTE positions	15	15	16	16	16

For additional information on the City Council or City Manager's Office visit www.wichita.gov!



Historic City Hall

Known as the "Palace of the Plains" when it was completed in 1892, the building is now a Wichita landmark and houses the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum. With stone walls 18 inches thick lined with two courses of brick, it was built to last. The top of the cupola is 155 feet from the ground; clock faces in the tower are 8 feet across. Cost figures in various documents range from \$75,000 to \$150,000. When the building was paid for in 1928, watchful citizens noted that interest costs on the bonds exceeded the original value of the building. Designed by Proudfoot and Bird, it is built of Cambridge limestone and features tall Norman towers and Roman arches. Because of the carved stone detailing, it is considered a masterpiece of the stonecutters art.